

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Y. KUMAGAI, et al.  
Application No.: Rule 1.53(b) Continuation of U.S. Patent Application  
Serial No. 10,301,624, filed November 22, 2002  
Filed: On Even Date Herewith  
For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND  
MANUFACTURING METHOD  
Art Group of Parent: 2826  
Examiner of Parent: F. Abraham

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 30, 2004

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as listed below and as set forth on the following pages:

**Amendment to the Specification;**

**Amendments to the Claims; and**

**Remarks are included following the amendments.**